AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A selling price information mediation service method for mediating and supplying~~, over a network,~~ selling price information, ~~including~~ which includes selling prices of a commodity in respective stores and information about the respective stores,~~,~~ over a network, the method comprising:

~~providing at least one information requester terminal that requests selling price information, a plurality of information provider terminals that provide selling price information, and a management server that is an information processing apparatus and mediates selling price information, said information requester terminal, said information provider terminals, and said management server being connected to a network, wherein said management server comprises the steps of:~~

receiving, from ~~said~~ an information requester terminal, an information request that requests selling price information about a commodity, and communicating the information request to ~~the~~ a plurality of information ~~providers~~ provider terminals;

collecting pieces of selling price information that are received from part of said plurality of information provider terminals in response to the information request and match the information request, and generating collected selling price information that matches the information request;

supplying the collected selling price information to said information requester terminal,

and charging said information requester terminal a prescribed information supply fee and

mediation commission; and

performing processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to the part of said plurality of

information provider terminals that provided the pieces of selling price information that match

the information request.

2. (currently amended): A selling price information mediation service method according

to claim 1, wherein a selling price information mediating service employs a membership system,

and said ~~management server~~ method further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

registering an information requester at said information requester terminal and

information providers at said information provider terminals as members after causing them to

clarify their identities; and

identifying a person who has caused a problem by distributing erroneous information

upon occurrence of the problem.

3. (currently amended): A selling price information mediation service method according

to claim 1, ~~wherein said management server~~ further ~~comprises the step of~~ comprising keeping a

history of an information provider who caused a problem and disclosing the history to said

information requester terminal.

4. (currently amended): A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, wherein the request information includes information of a limit selling price of the commodity, and ~~said management server further comprises the step of~~ further comprising supplying said information requester terminal with only pieces of selling price information with selling prices each of that is at most the limit selling price.

5. (currently amended): A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, wherein the request information includes information indicating a restrictive area where an information requester at said information requester terminal can buy the commodity, and ~~said management server further comprises the step of~~ further comprising supplying said information requester terminal with only pieces of selling price information of stores located in the restrictive area.

6. (currently amended): A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, ~~wherein said management server further comprises the step of~~ further comprising supplying said information requester terminal with part of the collected selling price information that excludes information about stores before supplying the collected selling price information to said information requester terminal.

7. (currently amended): A selling price information mediation service method according to claim 1, ~~wherein said management server further comprises the step of~~ further comprising

performing processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to only part of said information

provider terminals that provided pieces of selling price information with some ones of a lowest

selling price and prices close to it after selling the collected selling price information to said

information requester terminal.

8. (new): A system for mediating and providing selling price information over a

network, the system comprising:

at least one information requester terminal which requests selling price information;

a plurality of information provider terminals, each of which provide selling price

information for a retailer; and

a management server which mediates selling price information;

wherein the mediating selling price information comprises:

receiving an information request that requests selling price information about a

commodity from at least one information requester terminal, and communicating the information

request to a plurality of information provider terminals;

collecting pieces of selling price information that are received from part of said

plurality of information provider terminals, and match the information request, in response to the

information request, and generating collected selling price information that matches the

information request;

supplying the collected selling price information to said information requester

terminal, and charging said information requester terminal a prescribed information supply fee

and mediation commission; and

performing processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to the part of said

plurality of information provider terminals that provided the pieces of selling price information

that match the information request.

9. (new): A system according to claim 8, wherein said management server comprises a

membership system, and said membership system comprises:

registering an information requester at said information requester terminal and

information providers at said information provider terminals as members after causing them to

clarify their identities; and

identifying a person who has caused a problem by distributing erroneous information

upon occurrence of the problem.

10. (new): A system according to claim 9, wherein said membership system keeps a

history of an information provider who caused a problem and discloses the history to said

information requester terminal.

11. (new): A system according to claim 8, wherein the request information includes

information of a limit selling price of the commodity, and the management server supplies said

information requester terminal with only pieces of selling price information with selling prices

each of that is at most the limit selling price.

12. (new): A system according to claim 1, wherein the request information includes

information indicating a restrictive area where an information requester at said information

requester terminal can buy the commodity, and said management server supplies said

information requester terminal with only pieces of selling price information of stores located in

the restrictive area.

13. (new): A system according to claim 1, wherein said management server supplies

said information requester terminal with part of the collected selling price information that

excludes information about stores before supplying the collected selling price information to said

information requester terminal.

14. (new): A system according to claim 1, wherein said management server performs

processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to only part of said information provider

terminals that provided pieces of selling price information with some ones of a lowest selling

price and prices close to it after selling the collected selling price information to said information

requester terminal.

15. (new): A management server for mediating selling price information over a network, the management server comprising:

a receiving unit which receives an information request which requests selling price information about a commodity from at least one information requester terminal,

a communication unit which communicates the information request to a plurality of information provider terminals;

a collecting unit which collects pieces of selling price information that are received from part of said plurality of information provider terminals and match the information request, and generates collected selling price information that matches the information request;

a supplying unit which supplies the collected selling price information to said information requester terminal and charges said information requester terminal a prescribed information supply fee and mediation commission; and

a processing unit which performs processing for paying a prescribed informer fee to the part of said plurality of information provider terminals that provided the pieces of selling price information that match the information request.